## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims below.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A method for speech recognition, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~determining words and pauses in speech on the basis of word boundaries;~~

segmenting a voice signal into words and pauses and converting the words into text;

determining an average silence volume during the pauses;

determining an average word volume for the words;

calculating a difference between the average word volume and the average silence volume; and

~~recognizing speech when the difference between the average word volume and the average silence volume is greater than a predetermined threshold;~~

evaluating a word, having volume distance between the average word volume and the average silence volume is lower than a predetermined threshold, as having been incorrectly recognized.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising ~~the step of~~ measuring the average silence volume and the average word volume as a logarithm via an acquired energy.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ calculating the global difference between the average word volume of a plurality of segmented words and the average silence volume of a plurality of segmented pauses, and defining a threshold on the basis of the global difference.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~ equating the threshold with the global difference.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~ diminishing the global difference by a constant predetermined amount and deriving therefrom a volume amount as the threshold.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16 further comprising ~~the step of~~ employing a constant threshold.

Claim 21. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein a word for which no speech recognition is implemented is not taken into further consideration.

Claim 22. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein a message is output to a user when no speech recognition is implemented.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, further comprising ~~the step of~~ prompting a user with a message to speak louder and/or to repeat an unrecognized word.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising ~~the step of~~ prompting a user with a message to speak louder so that an adequate distance is achieved between the average word volume and the average silence volume.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 24, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ determining the average silence volume for an individual pause and determining the difference between the average word volume and the average silence volume of an immediately preceding pause or an immediately following pause.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 25, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ averaging the average silence volume over a plurality of successive pauses and employing the average in the determination of the difference between the average word volume and the average silence volume.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 26, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ preparing an n-best list and a difference between the average word volume of individual spoken words, allocating the average silence volume to each word of the n-best list, and determining the word to be inserted into the text from the n-best list according to a criterion of the difference between the average word volume of the individual spoken words and the average silence volume.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) A system for speech recognition, comprising:

a processor unit configured to determine words and pauses in the speech on the basis of word boundaries, an average silence volume during the pauses, an average word volume for the words, and a difference between the average word volume and the average silence volume[[;]],

whereby speech is recognized when the difference between the average word volume and the average silence volume is greater than a predetermined threshold.